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**NL INDUSTRIES/TARACORP SUPERFUND SITE GROUP
LEED ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.**

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September 6, 2000

First Class Mail

Mr. Brad Bradley
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

**RE: NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site; Granite City, Illinois
Consent Decree
Voluntary Progress Report 16 (August 2000)**

Dear Mr. Bradley:

As requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), two copies of this letter are submitted on behalf of the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site Group ("Group") on a voluntary basis to provide EPA with a progress report for activities related to the remediation of the residential lots and remote fill areas, the remediation of the Taracorp pile, and the remedial design for groundwater that were performed in regard to the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site (the "site") during August 2000.

1. Actions Taken During Previous Month to Comply with the Consent Decree:

- During August 2000, ENTACT, Inc. ("ENTACT") continued to prepare remedial action reports to summarize activities related to the remediation of residential lots, remote fill areas, and the Taracorp pile.
- During August 2000, ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller ("ARCADIS") continued to perform activities associated with the pre-design investigation for groundwater.
- On August 2, 2000, representatives of ENTACT and the Group's Technical Committee conducted a pre-final site inspection with EPA related to the remediation of residential lots, remote fill areas, and the Taracorp pile.



- On August 4, 2000, the Group's project coordinator issued a voluntary progress report to EPA.
- On August 7, 2000, a progress meeting was held to discuss the status of the remediation of residential lots, remote fill areas, and the Taracorp pile. Attendees at the meeting included representatives of EPA, ENTACT, and the Group's Technical Committee. ENTACT issued a report to project participants on August 7, 2000 to document the results of the meeting.
- On August 9, 2000, ENTACT issued a letter to EPA to provide a punch list of remaining tasks to be performed to complete remedial activities associated with the residential lots, remote fill areas, and the Taracorp pile. The punch list of remaining tasks was prepared to document the results of the pre-final inspection held at the site with EPA on August 2, 2000.
- On August 25, 2000, ARCADIS personnel issued revisions to the Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan for Groundwater to address EPA's previous comments.
- On August 29, 2000, ENTACT issued a Remedial Action Report to EPA to summarize activities related to the remediation of residential lots and remote fill areas.
- On August 29, 2000 and at the request of EPA, the Group's project coordinator issued a letter to the Illinois EPA to provide analytical data that have been received to date for the pre-design field investigation for groundwater.
- On August 31, 2000, the Group's project coordinator issued a letter to EPA and the Illinois EPA to provide preliminary, unvalidated data from the testing of groundwater collected at monitoring well GMMW-126 and from the second round of testing of groundwater samples collected from off-site wells located on the Granite City Steel and Terminal Railroad properties.
- During August 2000, ENTACT continued efforts to prepare a Remedial Action Report to summarize remedial activities for the Taracorp pile and industrial site. ENTACT also continued efforts to prepare an Operation and Maintenance Plan for the site.
- During August 2000, ARCADIS personnel continued efforts to prepare a report for EPA to document the pre-design field investigation results for groundwater.

2. Summary of Data and/or Results of Sampling and Tests Received:

- As noted above, the Group's project coordinator provided analytical data from the pre-design field investigation for groundwater to the Illinois EPA on August 29, 2000. Preliminary, unvalidated data from the testing of groundwater from monitoring well GMMW-126 and from the testing of the second round of groundwater samples collected from off-site monitoring wells on Granite City Steel and Terminal Railroad properties were provided to EPA and the Illinois EPA on August 31, 2000.

3. Work Plans, Plans, and Other Deliverables Completed and Submitted to EPA During the Previous Month:

- As noted above, ARCADIS submitted revisions to the Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan for Groundwater to EPA to address the Agency's previous comments.

4. Actions, Data Collection, and Implementation of Work Plans and Other Information Related to the Progress of Construction which are Scheduled to be Performed During the Next Six-Week Period:

- ENTACT will continue efforts to finalize the Remedial Action Report for the Taracorp pile and industrial site. At the present time, the Group anticipates that ENTACT will complete the report and submit it to EPA for review in September 2000.
- ENTACT will continue efforts to prepare an Operation and Maintenance Plan for the site. The Group currently anticipates that ENTACT will finalize the Operation and Maintenance Plan and submit the document to EPA for review in September 2000.
- ARCADIS personnel will continue to perform pre-design investigation activities for groundwater. The Group envisions that ARCADIS will complete a report for submission to EPA in September 2000 to summarize the results of the pre-design field investigation for groundwater.

5. Problems Encountered, Anticipated Problems, Actual or Anticipated Delays, and Efforts Developed or Implemented to Mitigate Delays:

- Not applicable of this reporting period.

6. Modifications to Work Plans or Schedules Proposed to EPA or Approved by EPA:

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

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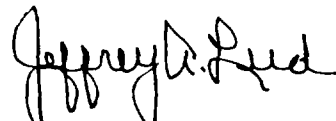
7. Community Relations Activities During Previous Month or to be Undertaken During Next Six-Week Period:

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

Should you or your staff have questions or comments regarding this progress report, please contact this office at (610) 670-7310.

Very truly yours,

LEED ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Jeffrey A. Leed
Project Coordinator

cc: Ms. Sandra Bron - Illinois EPA (by first class mail)
Mr. Tim Healy - ENTACT, Inc. (by first class mail)
Mr. Jack Kratzmeyer - ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller (by first class mail)
Technical Committee, NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site Group (by first class mail)